

Parks & Forestry Division

2011 Annual Report



Parks

Parks operations staff annually maintains more than 2,450 acres of public lands. This maintenance included 1,515 acres of turf, 240 acres of which are irrigated athletic fields, and approximately 935 acres of wooded or undeveloped public property. The division also provides a variety of outdoor recreation services including facility support for youth and adult sport organizations, labor support for other Park divisions & community event sponsors. Facilities under the stewardship of the Parks operations included 14 picnic shelters, 2 swimming pools and a beach, 50 softball and baseball fields, 14 volleyball courts, 26 soccer and football fields, 2 disc golf courses, 1 lighted cross country ski course, 8 skating rinks, 27 miles of trails, 82 playgrounds, 40 tennis and basketball courts, 2 animal exercise areas and a skate park.



Parks 2011 Highlights

- ♦ Completion of the Weatherstone Trail project
- ♦ Completion of the Cascade Lake Mayo Cell Trail segment
- ♦ Completion of the Trail wayfinding signage project
- ♦ Completion of the Trail Mapping project
- ♦ Department provided facility and production assistance for:
 - Rochesterfest
 - Pridefest
 - Polar Plunge
 - WinterFest
 - Arbor Day
 - MS. Bike Ride
 - Nat'l Night Out
 - Community 4th July Celebration
 - Peace Plaza Events
 - Cardboard Box City
 - Litter Bit Better
 - Riverside Concerts
 - Thursdays on First
 - Rugby Tournament
 - Water Ski Show
- ♦ Resided the Maintenance building at Quarry Hill



Weatherstone & Ridge View Manor Trail

Parks 2011 Highlights cont.

- ♦ Denis Wegner, Crew Chief II, retires after 40 years of service to the City.
- ♦ Restoration of Flood damaged areas
- ♦ RBC playground installed
- ♦ Installation of Park Signage at several key Park facilities
- ♦ Mayo Field hosted 115 baseball games Hudson Field 90 games
- ♦ Park facilities hosted the following events in 2011:
 - Eagles Cancer Softball Tournament
 - ASA Fastpitch Northern National
 - MSF State Fastpitch Tournament
 - Senior Mens Softball Tournament
 - Northwoods League Championship Series
 - NJCAA Division III National Fastpitch Championship
 - Minnesota State High School League Sec 1AAA Baseball



Trail Wayfinding

Forestry

The Forestry operations are responsible for the management of Rochester's urban trees, the flood control turf and landscaping, the high visibility landscaped rights of way and the Peace Plaza maintenance. The management of the urban tree program consists of the control of shade tree disorders such as Dutch elm disease & Emerald Ash Borer, reforestation of city parks and boulevards, and routine maintenance of the City's 50,000 boulevard and 30,000 park trees. The division also administers the city's tall grass and weed ordinance, participates in the implementation of the boulevard tree ordinance, maintains the City's extensive recreational trail system, Peace Plaza maintenance and provides the seasonal decorations in the downtown core.



Removing a Storm Damaged Tree

Forestry 2011 Highlights

- ♦ Co-hosted Rochester Arbor Day Celebration at Central Park
- ♦ Rochester named Tree City USA 30 years / Growth Award 8 years
- ♦ Hosted 9th Annual SE MN Arborist event 2,161 trees were planted / 152 planting permits issued
- ♦ 1,105 tall grass / weed violation notices sent
- ♦ Received \$25,000 DNR tree planting grant
- ♦ Forestry personnel trimmed 6,058 trees
- ♦ Planting with RNeighborwoods—1,000 blvd trees in one day. A state of MN record.
- ♦ Olmsted Co environmental award for Fridell Butterfly garden planting
- ♦ Completed our first “citizen pruner” trainings for the future of city blvd trees
- ♦ Began partnerships with RCTC, U of MN and RPU
- ♦ Hosted state of MN Tree Climbing Championships for the first time—Silver Lake Park



Fridell School Butterfly Garden Planting

Flood Control

The flood control maintenance operations is performed jointly with the Public Works Department. Our portion of the operations include the vegetative management of the channel corridor and reservoirs to control the passage of flood events minimizing damage to homes and businesses, to provide turf management, and to maintain the pathways & amenities adjacent to the reservoirs, Zumbro River, Bear Creek, Cascade Creek, Willow Creek and Silver Creek. In 2011 the Parks, Forestry and Flood Control operations maintained 18 miles of recreational trail, 450 decorative light fixtures, 5,000 trees and shrubs and mowed 155 acres of turf. Continued high intensity rain and flooding events has had an affect on the operations of the flood project properties. Public Works and Parks are jointly reviewing this program for future needed work.



High Water On Cascade Creek

Parkway & CBD Maintenance

Both the Parkway and CBD maintenance activities affect very visible landscape locations in Rochester. The CBD maintenance involves the downtown core of Rochester and addresses the Peace Plaza maintenance, the planters and the seasonal banners and decorations. With thousands of employees, visitors and medical patients coming to the downtown each day the quality of this maintenance activity is a key factor in providing the high quality experience expected for Rochester. This same high quality is also expected for the landscaped roadways in Rochester. Areas like 2nd Street South, HWY 52, HWY 14, Civic Center Drive, 4th Street Bridge, etc. These roadways are the arteries feeding the City and the downtown. Because these are main travel corridors, the City has had the vision to make sure these high traveled areas have the aesthetics appropriate to the convey the quality of Rochester. It is the responsibility of this Division to meet those high expectations through proper and timely maintenance.



Removing Crow Guano From CBD